

AIMED TO MAKE POLAND DESERT

German System Reckoned on
Starvation of People to Pro-
mote Imperial Ends.

VON KRIES REVEALED PLOT

Country, After Population Had Been
Systematically Done to Death, Was
to Be Restocked by Settlers
From Germany.

The extent of human misery in Poland caused by the German occupation was as great as that in Belgium and France. The entire heartlessness which characterized the Kaiser's high officers is well shown in a statement by Mr. Vernon Kellogg, prepared for a pamphlet issued by the committee on public information, which we copy.

The systematic exploitation of human misery by the German authorities in Poland followed the general plan laid down by the Kaiser's orders. In order to prove the identity of procedure it will be enough to present the detailed report prepared specially for a pamphlet issued by the committee on public information and written by Mr. Frederic C. Walcott. A fuller and in some ways more touching treatment is given in his article, "Devastated Poland," in the National Geographic Magazine for May, 1917.

"September, 1917.
"Poland—Russian Poland—is perishing. And the German high command, imbued with the Prussian system, is coolly reckoning on the necessities of a starving people to promote its imperial ends.

"West Poland, which has been Prussian territory more than a hundred years, is a disappointment to Germany; its people obstinately remain Poles. This time they propose swifter measures. In two or three years, by grace of starvation and frightfulness, they calculate East Poland will be thoroughly made over into a German province.

"In the great Hindenburg drive one year ago, the country was completely devastated by the retreating Russian army and the oncoming Germans. A million people were driven from their homes. Half of them perished by the roadside. For miles and miles, when I saw the country, the way was littered with mudsoaked garments and bones picked clean by the crows—though the larger bones had been gathered by the thrifty Germans to be ground into fertilizer. Wicker baskets—the little basket in which the baby swings from the rafters in every peasant home—were scattered along the way, hundreds and hundreds, until one could not count them, each one telling a death.

"Deliberate Policy of Starvation.
"Warsaw, which had not been destroyed—once a proud city of a million people—was utterly stricken. Poor folks by thousands lined the streets, leaning against the buildings, shivering in snow and rain, too weak to lift a hand, dying of cold and hunger. Though the rich gave all they had, and the poor shared their last crust, they were starving there in the streets in droves.
"In the stricken city, the German governor of Warsaw issued a proclamation. All able-bodied Poles were bidden to go to Germany to work. If any refused, let no other Pole give him to eat, not so much as a mouthful, under penalty of German military law.

"It was more than the mind could grasp. To the husband and father of broken families, the high command gave this decree: Leave your families to starve; if you stay, we shall see that you do starve—this to a high-strung, sensitive, highly organized people, this from the authorities of a nation professing civilization and religion to millions of fellow Christians captive and starving.

"General von Kries, the governor, was kind enough to explain. Candidly, they preferred not quite so much starvation; it might get on the nerves of the German soldiers. But, starvation being present, it must work for German purpose. Taking advantage of this wretchedness, the working men of Poland were to be removed; the country was to be restocked with Germans. It was country Germany needed—rich alluvial soil—better suited to German expansion than distant possessions, if the Poland that was had to perish, so much the better for Germany.

"To Make Poland German Province.
"Remove the men, let the young and weak die, graft German stock on the women. See how simple it is: with a crafty smile, General von Kries concluded, 'By and by we must give back freedom to Poland. Very good; it will reappear as a German province.'

"Slowly, I came to realize that this monstrous, incredible thing was the Prussian system, deliberately chosen by the circle around the all-highest and kneaded into the German people till it became part of their mind.

"German people are material for building the state—of no other account. Other people are for Germany's will to work upon. Humanity, liberty, equality, the rights of others—all foolish talk. Democracy, an idle dream. The true Prussian lives only for this, that the German state may be mighty and great.

"All the woes in the long count against Germany are part of the Prussian system. The invasion of Belgium, the deportations, the starving of sub-

ject people, the Armenian massacres, atrocities, frightfulness, sinking the Lusitania, the submarine horrors, the enslavement of women—all piece into the monstrous view. The rights of nations, the rights of men, the lives and liberties of all people are subordinate to the German aim of dominion over all the world.

"FREDERIC C. WALCOTT."
Mr. Vernon Kellogg's statement is as follows:

"Saw Only Massacre and Ruin.
"It was my privilege—and necessity—in connection with the work of the commission for relief in Belgium to spend several months at the great headquarters of the German armies in the west, and later to spend more months at Brussels as the commission's director for Belgium and occupied France. It was an enforced opportunity to see something of German practice in the treatment of a conquered people, part of whom (the French and the inhabitants of the Belgian provinces of East and West Flanders) were under the direct control of the German general staff and the several German armies of the west, and part, the inhabitants of the seven other Belgian provinces, under the quasi-civil government of Governor General von Bissing. I did not enter the occupied territories until June, 1915, and so, of course, saw none of the actual invasion and overrunning of the land. I saw only the graves of the massacred and the ruins of their towns. But I saw through the long, hard months much too much for my peace of mind of how the Germans treated the unfortunates under their control after the occupation.

"Destruction Complete.
"As chief representative for the commission, it was my duty to cover this whole territory repeatedly in long motor journeys in company with the German officer assigned for my protection—and for the protection of the German army against any too much seeing. As I had opportunity also to cover most of Belgium in repeated trips from Brussels into the various provinces, I necessarily had opportunity to compare the destruction wrought in the two regions.

"I could understand why certain towns and villages along the Meuse and along the lines of the French and English retreat were badly shot to pieces. There had been fighting in these towns and the artillery of first one side and then the other had worked their havoc among the houses of the inhabitants. But there were many towns in which there had been no fighting and yet all too many of these towns also were in ruins. It was not ruin by shells, but ruin by fire and explosions. These were the famous 'punished' towns. Either a citizen or perhaps two or three citizens had fired from a window on the invaders—or were alleged to have. Thereupon a block, or two or three blocks, or half the town was methodically and effectively burned or blown to pieces. There are many of these 'punished' towns in occupied France. And between these towns and along the roadways are innumerable isolated single farmhouses that are also in ruins. It is not claimed that there was any sniping from these farmhouses. They were just destroyed along the way—and by the way, one may say. When the roll of destroyed villages and destroyed farmhouses in occupied France is made known, the world will be shocked again by this evidence of German thoroughness.

"Found Neutrality Impossible.
"But the horrible methods of that deportation were such that we, although trying to hold steadfast to a rigorous neutrality, could not but protest. Mr. Gerard, our ambassador to Berlin, happened at the very time of this protest to make a visit to the great headquarters in the west and the matter was brought to the attention of certain high officers at headquarters on the very day of Mr. Gerard's visit and in his hearing. So that he added his own protest to that of Mr. Poland, our director at the time, and further deportations were stopped. But a terrible mischief had already been done. Husbands and fathers had been taken from their families without a word of good-by; sons and daughters on whom perhaps aged parents relied for support were taken without pity or apparent thought of the terrible consequences. The great deportations of Belgium have shocked the world. But these lesser deportations—that is, lesser in extent, but not less brutal in their carrying out—are hardly known.

"Germany Must Be Civilized.
"I went into Belgium and occupied France a neutral and I maintained while there a steadfastly neutral behavior. But I came out no neutral. I cannot conceive that any American enjoying an experience similar to mine could have come out a neutral. He would come out, as I came, with the ineradicable conviction that a people or a government which can do what the Germans did and are doing in Belgium and France today must not be allowed, if there is power on earth to prevent it, to do this a moment longer than can be helped. And they must not be allowed ever to do it again.

"I went in also a hater of war, and I came out a more ardent hater of war. But, also, I came out with the ineradicable conviction, again, that the only way in which Germany under its present rule and in its present state of mind can be kept from doing what it has done is by force of arms. It cannot be prevented by appeal, concession or treaties. Hence, ardently as I hope that all war may cease, I hope that this war may not cease until Germany realizes that the civilized world simply will not allow such horrors as those for which Germany is responsible in Belgium and France to be any longer possible.

"VERNON KELLOGG."

Large Acreage of Grant Land Unsold

S. W. Williams, special assistant to the attorney general at Washington, has returned from Washington, where he appeared before the committee on public lands in reference to the Coos Bay wagon road bill, says the Oregon Journal. He will meet in conference with the various state and county officials whose official position brings them in touch with the case as soon as such conferences may be secured, in an effort to make such a presentation of facts and data to the land committee as will gain its support for the bill now pending before it.

Mr. Williams was called to Washington several weeks ago to appear before the committee on public lands and outline the position of the Department of Justice in reference to the Sinnott bill. It was at that hearing that the opposition to the terms of the bill arose from different members of the committee who objected to the disbursement of 50 per cent of the net proceeds to the irreducible school fund and port, road and district funds of Coos and Douglas counties.

Mr. Williams' statement to the committee showed that the original Coos Bay grant comprised 105,000 acres of land, in a tract approximately 65 miles long by six wide, extending from Marshfield to Roseburg. Of

apportioned to the reclamation fund, 25 per cent of the irreducible school fund of Oregon, and 25 per cent to the two counties of Coos and Douglas for their road, port and district funds.

The public lands committee is hesitating concerning the payment of more than the accrued taxes and penalties to the two counties and is showing a disposition to retain all of the net proceeds. Mr. Williams will co-operate with Attorney General Brown and the officials of the two counties and is preparing a showing in support of the present terms of the bill by which the school fund and county funds are to receive 50 per cent of the net proceeds or \$500,000 in round numbers.

WARNING ISSUED AGAINST SWINDLER

Another scheme for swindling the farmers of the United States has been discovered by the Federal Farm Loan Board. A man advertising himself as an authorized organizer of national farm loan associations is sending out advertising matter emblazoned with the national flag, stating that he will organize such associations at \$500 each, and will teach others the trick for a certain sum of money. His advertisements have reached farmers and business men over a large part of the United States. He claims to be so busy organizing national farm loan associations that he needs help, but will take time to teach others for a monetary consideration.

All such representations are fraudulent. In order to borrow under the farm loan act it is necessary for farmers to organize co-operative national farm loan associations in their local communities. It is a violation of a ruling of the Federal Farm Loan Board, published more than a year ago, for a national farm loan association or a joint-stock land bank to spend any money for promotion purposes. Associations thus organized will not be chartered by the Federal Farm Loan Board. Farmers are warned, therefore, against any one asking a fee for his proffered services in connection with applying for a loan under the federal farm loan act.

ATHLETIC WORK IN EXPERIENCED HANDS

Athletic work in army camps and cantonments is in the hands of 32 trained organizers and coaches. They are civilian aids on the staffs of commanding officers, and their salaries are paid by the government.

Particular attention has been given to boxing, as it assists men in bayonet fighting. A committee of best-known boxers worked out plans, and moving pictures to teach boxing have been made. Baseballs, bats, basket balls and soccer balls, boxing gloves and other equipment are supplied each company, in part, from a government appropriation.

TUSCANIA'S LOSS PROTECTED BY U. S.

Every American soldier or sailor lost on the torpedoed transport Tuscania was protected by the United States government insurance and government compensation. This has been officially announced by Secretary McAdoo.

Those who had not applied for insurance were covered by the automatic insurance under the law which is payable to a wife, child or widowed mother. This automatic insurance aggregates \$4,300, netting \$25 a month for 240 months.

Of those who had applied for and obtained insurance many had taken out the maximum amount of \$10,000, netting \$57.50 a month for 240 months.

There have been various causes for delay in forwarding checks to the dependents of soldiers and sailors. The distance of many of the applicants from Washington and the mail congestion prevailing more or less all over the country have caused delay both in the receipt of the applications by the treasury and the receipt of the checks by the beneficiaries.

Another cause is that of the checks sent out—10,000—could not be delivered because the dependents to whom the checks were payable had moved, leaving no forwarding addresses, or the addresses originally given were incomplete or erroneous or so illegibly written that they could not be properly deciphered.

Nearly half a million checks were mailed out in January and all possible expedition is being made to get all the addresses and other details correct so that the dependents of the soldiers and sailors will receive their allowances promptly and certainly.

The Tuscania carried down with it more than its own weight in American pacifism.

CITY BOYS EQUAL TO THOSE OF COUNTRY

According to records of the selective service, country boys do not show much physical superiority over those of the cities. For purpose of comparison selection was made of cities of 40,000 to 500,000 population, and a corresponding set of counties of the same total size. In the physical examinations 28.47 per cent of the city boys were rejected, as against 27.96 per cent of the country boys.

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this total sum 12,000 acres have
been sold, leaving approximately 93,
000 acres in the grant as it now
stands.

The Sinnott bill provides that the government should pay Coos and Douglas counties approximately \$408,000 in taxes and interest, and the Southern Oregon Company, owner of the tract \$232,000 for its interest in the land. The company, in exchange for this payment, is to reconvey the land to the government by deed.

These payments would leave approximately \$1,000,000 as the net value of the grant, which is to be sold under the same terms and conditions as set out in the Chamberlain-Perris act administering the Oregon & California grant lands.
The Sinnott bill also provides that of these net proceeds 10 per cent shall be retained by the general fund of the government, 40 per cent be

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